

End of Mar 44 BC / Apr 44 BC

DURANT

Anthony, found in Caesar's papers, or (some said) placed there, whatever it suited him to find - appointments for his friends. In 2 weeks time he had paid off \$1,500,000 in debts and had become a rich man. He seized the \$25,000,000 that Caesar had deposited in the Temple of Ops and took another \$5,000,000 from Caesar's private treasury. Noting that Decimus Brutus, whom Caesar had appointed governor of Cisalpine Gaul, had assumed that lucrative office despite sharing in the assassination of Caesar.

Antony passed through the Assembly a bill giving himself that strategic province and consoling Decimus with Macedonia. Likewise Marcus Brutus and Cassius were to surrender Macedonia to Decimus and SYRIA to DOLABELLA and were to content themselves with sharing CYRENE & CRETE.

44 BC

DURANT

Alarmed by Antony's spreading power, the Senate invited to Rome, as a foil to him, Caesar's adopted son, CAIUS OCTAVIUS, who was to make himself the greatest statesman in Roman history, was 18 yrs old in 44 BC. By natural custom he took his adoptive father's name; adding his own as a modifier, he ~~became~~ CAIUS JULIUS CAESAR OCTAVIANUS, until, 17 yrs later, he received that lofty name of AUGUSTUS by which the centuries have known him. His grandmother was Caesar's sister Julia,

his grandfather had been a vendor of plebeian
stock at VELITRAE, in Latium; his father had
served as plebeian aedile, then praetor, then
governor of Macedonia. The boy was trained
to sportsman simplicity, and educated in the
literature and philosophy of Greece and Rome.
In the last three years he had lived a good
part of the time in Caesar's palace. It was one
of the sorrows of Caesar's life that he had no
legitimate son, and one of the profoundest
insights that he adopted OCTAVIUS. He was
thin and pale and suffered from poor digestion.
He ate little, drank less & outlived strong men. By
the results of his life.

44BC (about middle)

DURANT

For the Second Triumvirate to pay their troops, replenish their coffers and revenge Caesar, now set loose the bloodiest reign of terror in Roman history. They listed 300 senators and 2000 businessmen for execution, and offered 25,000 drachmas (\$15,000) to any freeman, and 10,000 to any slave who would bring in the head of a person proscribed. To have money become a capital crime; children to whom fortunes had been

left were condemned and killed; widows were
shorn of their legacies; 1400 rich women were
required to turn over a large share of their property
to the triumvirs: at last even the survivors
deposited with the Vestal Virgins were seized
ATTICUS was spared because he had helped
Antony's wife FULVIA; while acknowledging
the courtesy, he sent great sums to Brutus
& Cassius. The Triumvirs set their
soldiers to guard all exits from the city. The
proscribed hid in wells, sewers, attics,
chimneys &c

44BC

DURANT

Knowing he was proscribed, SALVIUS the tribune, gave a last feast to his friends; the emissaries of the Triumvirs entered, cut off his head, left his body at the table, and bade the feast to go on.

Slaves took the opportunity to get rid of hard masters, but many fought to the death to protect their owners; one disguised himself as his master and suffered decapitation in his stead. Sons died to protect their fathers.

others betrayed their fathers to inherit a part of their fortunes. Adulterers or deceived wives surrendered their husbands. The wife of COPONIVS secured his safety, by sleeping with Antony. Antony's wife FULVIA had tried to buy the mansion of her neighbor RUFUS; he had refused to sell; now, though he offered it to her as a gift, she had him presented and nailed his severed head to his front door.

15 MAR 44BC

Caesar had risen too high to escape hatred. The plot to assassinate him probably originated in the personal spite of GAIUS CASSIUS, but many of the conspirators, in particular MARCUS BRUTUS were naive enough to believe that by the death of a dictator the republic could be restored.

On Mar 15 (IDES), 44BC, at

a meeting of the Senate held in the hall attached to Pompey's theatre, he fell at the feet of the great rival's statue, pierced by 23 wounds.

More clearly than any other man, he saw that the senatorial oligarchy had been proven wholly incompetent to govern a great empire. He was an able statesman and writer.

Late in Mar 44 B.C.

DURANT

A freedman arrived at APOLLONIA, in Illyria, where OCTAVIAN was stationed with the army, and brought the news of Caesar's death and will. The sensitive youth was horrified at man's ingratitude; all his love for the great-uncle who had so cherished him, and had worked so feverishly to rebuild a shattered state, welled up in him and filled him with a silent resolve to complete the labors of Caesar and avenge his death. He rode down to the sea, crossed

to Brundisium, and hastened to Rome. His relatives there advised him to stay in hiding lest Antony destroy him; his mother likewise recommended inaction; but when he scorned such a course she rejoiced, merely suggesting that whenever possible he should use patience and subtlety rather than open war. He followed this wise counsel to the end.

44BC

MAR 15

Caesar murdered by
conspirators led by Brutus
and Cassius Longinus

44 BC

Caesar dictator for life: was murdered

44 BC

Cicero attacked Mark Antony but allied himself with OCTAVIAN who played him false by joining Antony and MARCUS AEMILIUS LEPIDUS in the Second Triumvirate (43 BC)

IDES OF MARCH, 44 BC Mar. 15

Caesar had incurred enmity of many particularly those who viewed him as a tyrant who had destroyed the Republic. Conspirators, led by ex-Pompeians whom Caesar had pardoned, stabbed him to death in the Senate, and Rome was once more plunged into conflict.

Caesar's assassins had been offended by his trapping of monarchy - his purple robe, the statues reared in his honor, the coins bearing his portrait - and they assumed that at his death the Republic would be restored to its traditional status.

But the people of Rome remained unmoved.

44 B.C. Ides of March
Death of Caesar.

Lead to the Second Triumvirate
Octavian (Augustus), Antony, & Lepidus
Octavian was Caesar's nephew, ward,
and heir, and his true successor

44BC

DURANT

Octavian with 4 legions went northward to battle Antony. Cicero lent this new civil war the aid of his invective in 14 powerful "Philippics" against the public policy and private life of Antony, some delivered to the Senate or the Assembly, the rest published as propaganda broadcasts in the best tradition of mortal blackening. In the ensuing engagement at MUTINA (MODENA), Antony lost and fled; but HIRITIUS and PANSA (the consul) fell,

and Octavian returned to Rome sole commander
of the Senate's legions as well as his own. With their
face behind him, he compelled the Senate to name
him consul, to repeal its amnesty to the conspirators
and to sentence them all to death. Discovering that
Cicero and the Senate were now his enemies
and were merely using him as a temporary
tool against Antony, he composed his difference
with Antony and joined with him and
LEPIDUS, the 2nd TRIUMVIRATE (43 BC → 33 BC).
Their combined armies marched into Rome and
took it without resistance. Many of the senators
and conservatives fled to south Italy and the
provinces. The Assembly ratified the TRIUMVIRATE for 5 yrs.

44 BC

Mark Antony, MARCUS AEMILIUS
LEPIDUS and Octavian formed
"The Second Triumvirate"
which controlled the Roman
world.